

FLOUNDER

It wasn't even Ariel's fault! We were gonna come back straight away. But then the seagull started goin' on and on about human stuff—

KING TRITON

Seagull? Human stuff? You went up to the surface?!?

ARIEL

(sheepishly)

Um... nothing happened—

KING TRITON

You could've been seen by one of those barbarians!

ARIEL

Daddy, they're not barbarians!

KING TRITON

They're dangerous – nets, harpoons! You're my youngest—

ARIEL

I'm old enough to look after myself—

KING TRITON

As long as you live under my reef, you'll obey my rules!

ARIEL

If you'd just listen to me for once—

KING TRITON

That's the last time you're ever swimming to the surface! Understood?

ARIEL

You're so unfair!

(ARIEL bursts into tears and swims away, followed by FLOUNDER.)

KING TRITON

Agh! She's stubborn as a barnacle—

SEBASTIAN

Teenagers! Give 'em an inch, and they swim all over you.

KING TRITON

I can govern a kingdom, but I can't control my own daughter. Maybe I was too harsh...

SEBASTIAN

Nonsense, Sire! If you ask me, you haven't been tough enough.

KING TRITON

I haven't?

SEBASTIAN

Ariel needs constant supervision! Someone to watch over her – to keep her out of trouble.

KING TRITON

That's not a bad idea—

SEBASTIAN

I'd say it's a right good one.

KING TRITON

And you are just the crab to do it!

SEBASTIAN

What?!?

KING TRITON

You heard me! From now on, Ariel is your responsibility!

(KING TRITON exits emphatically.)

SEBASTIAN

(follows KING TRITON, pleading)

Mine? But your majesty, she's a clever mermaid! I'm just a crustacean! Surely you ought to pick someone higher on the evolutionary ladder...

SCENE SIX: Ariel's Grotto

(#12 PART OF YOUR WORLD. *The SEA CHORUS reconfigures to form Ariel's grotto, filled with "human treasures." ARIEL, distraught after her fight with Dad, sits among her treasures holding her newly acquired fork. FLOUNDER floats nearby.)*

ARIEL

If only I could make my father understand. I just don't see how a world that makes such wonderful things could be so bad.